

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated February 23, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on May 23, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 16, 17, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 32, 33, 41, and 44-46 remain pending in the application after entry of this response. Claims 1, 5, 7-10, 22, 25, 31, 35-38, 42, and 43 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 16 has been amended and new claims 44-46 have been added. No new matter has been added by the amendments or new claims. Claims 24, 26, 28, 29, 32, 33, and 41 are allowed and claims 22 and 23 would be allowable if redrafted in independent form.

Claims 5, 7-10, 38, and 43 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 5, 7-10, 38, and 43 have been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 25, 31, and 35-38 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bodine* (US 2,948,059) in view of *Flanders* (US 6,009,948), and further in view of *Juvan* (US 5,037,524). Claims 1, 25, 31, and 35-38 have been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 7, and 43 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bodine* in view of *Flanders* and *Juvan*, and further in view of *Hardin* (US 5,351,754). Claims 5, 7, and 43 have been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-10, 16, 17, 21 and 42 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bodine* in view of *Flanders*, *Juvan*, and *Hardin*, and further in view of *Zunkel* (US 6,012,521). Claims 8-10 and 42 have been canceled and claim 16 has been amended to incorporate claim 22. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding new claims 44-46, claim 44 is claim 23 (before current amendment to claim 16) redrafted in independent form.

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Claims 22 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 22 has been incorporated into claim 16 and canceled. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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